

Table Characteristics of excluded studies

study	Reason for exclusion
Bonefeld 2012	Did not report outcomes we need in this review
Bruha 2006	Non-randomized controlled study
Samanta 2011	Included patients without cirrhosis
Ren RR 2012 and Qu CX 2012	Conducted by the same team in the same medical center during the same period of time but reported different results. In addition, the trials did not perform allocation concealment and blinding, and the methods of randomization were questionable. We received no reply after requiring for the original data.